

TOWNSHIP OF FRANKLIN
R-79-24

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE DISTRIBUTION OF \$15,000.00 FROM THE TOWNSHIP'S OPEN SPACE TRUST FUND TO ASSIST IN THE PRESERVATION OF THE SCHIPANI/HALLISSEY PROPERTY AS OPEN SPACE

WHEREAS, the Township of Franklin has been a long-time proponent in the preservation of municipal farmland and open space, and has established a Municipal Open Space Trust Fund to assist in these efforts; and

WHEREAS, for the last several years South Jersey Land and Water Trust ("SJLWT"), in cooperation with the New Jersey Conservation Foundation and the New Jersey Green Acres Program, has undertaken the effort to preserve the Schipani/Hallissey property ("the Property"), known as Block 1001, Lot 73, in the Township of Franklin, as preserved open space; and

WHEREAS, the Property is a 141.587-acre wooded parcel, and is deemed as important for preservation as open space based on the following:

- (1) This Property is listed as a target acquisition in the Franklin Township Open Space and Recreation Plan as part of the Indian Branch Greenway.
- (2) The Property sits 2,000 feet from NJDEP-owned White Oak Branch Wildlife Management Area, and is immediately contiguous to more than 107-acres of preserved farmland.
- (3) The Property is located within the headwaters of the Maurice River's Scotland Run tributary Indian Branch, and is the headwaters for three minor streams for this tributary.
- (4) The Property is the highest value mapped prime aquifer recharge site in Franklin Township.
- (5) Any development to the Property would result in the clear cutting of mature forest, and will lead to the destruction of Franklin Township's natural resources, and all wildlife that uses the Property would be eliminated from Franklin's ecosystem; and

WHEREAS, for the reasons identified above, the Township of Franklin concurs that the Property should be preserved as open space, and has offered to assist SJLWT in its preservation by contributing \$15,000.00 from the Municipal Open Space Trust Fund towards these efforts; and

WHEREAS, the CFO has certified that the funds are available in Budget Line Item: Municipal Open Space Trust (T-18-56-850-801); and

WHEREAS, SJLWT will use this \$15,000.00 to assist in paying for the professional costs (appraisal, survey, environmental engineering, title work) associated with the preservation of the Property that are not covered by Green Acres funding, and would otherwise be borne by SJLWT; and

WHEREAS, upon settlement, SJLWT will become the deeded owner of the Property, and will maintain it as an undeveloped open space area to be used for passive recreational purposes.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Franklin, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey, that:

- (1) The Township of Franklin concurs that the Schipani/Hallissey property, known as Block 1001, Lot 73, in the Township of Franklin, should be preserved as open space; and
- (2) The Township of Franklin agrees to contribute \$15,000.00 from the Municipal Open Space Trust Fund to South Jersey Land and Water Trust towards the preservation efforts on the Schipani/Hallissey property.

Adopted: May 14, 2024

COMMITTEE MEMBER	MOTION	2 nd	YES	ABSTAIN	NO	ABSENT
J. Bruno						
T. Doyle						
M. Fiorella						
J. Keen						
M. Marsh						

Attest:

Township of Franklin

Barbara Freijomil, Clerk

John Bruno, Mayor

CERTIFICATION

I, Barbara Freijomil, Clerk of the Township of Franklin, do hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was presented and duly adopted by the Township Committee at a meeting held on May 14, 2024.

Barbara Freijomil, Clerk